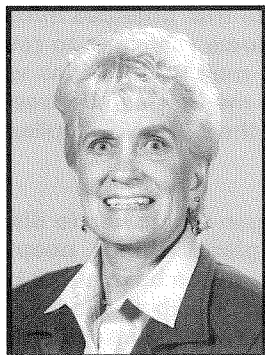


Hammerstrom's for the people in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



State Senator

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August 7, 2006

NEW MICHIGAN ARTS AND HUMANITIES DIRECTORY AVAILABLE The Michigan Humanities Council (MHC), in partnership with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA), has released the *2006-2009 Michigan's Arts and Humanities Touring Directory*. Recommended by a panel of experts from the arts and humanities fields, 248 of Michigan's best arts and cultural presenters are featured in the Directory. Event planners, city leaders, educators, nonprofit organizations and others who aim for the highest quality Michigan entertainment will find this Touring Directory to be a helpful resource in their search. The Directory includes detailed information describing the many different performances available, their cost for services and their contact information for event booking. Grant opportunities are also available to cover some, or all, of the performance costs. The 2006-2009 Arts and Humanities Directory is available for free from the MHC website at www.michiganhumanities.org.

DID YOU KNOW? Last year, the MHC awarded more than \$72,000 in grants for 403 touring program presentations across the state of Michigan, reaching more than 100,000 Michiganders.

NEW LAW HELPS PROMOTE TEEN DEPRESSION AWARENESS IN SCHOOLS The governor recently signed into law a bill that will encourage school districts and public school academies to provide instruction to students and personnel on suicide and depression. Suicide is the third-leading cause of death among adolescents. Public Act 324 of 2006 requires the Department of Education to develop or select model programs and materials on suicide prevention that can be used to promote awareness in Michigan schools. The curriculum will include age-appropriate information and instructional guides, as well as professional training for school employees on the warning signs and risk factors of suicide and depression and the positive factors that help prevent suicide. The law also requires schools to inform parents on all suicide awareness instruction taking place. Schools are not required to adopt this new curriculum, but will be highly encouraged to do so.

STATE LAUNCHES NEW EGRAMS WEBSITE The Michigan Department of Information Technology (MDIT) has recently launched a new Electronic Grants Administration and Management System (EGRAMS) website that provides information on all grant opportunities available through agencies in the state of Michigan. The site allows searchers to review over 300 grant programs currently offered by the state. Grantees can apply online, receive e-mail notifications when opportunities arise, and allow the grantor to review, approve, and deny applications while also monitoring and tracking grantee performance electronically. To learn more, visit www.michigan.gov/egrants and click on the EGRAMS Application link.

BE A PART OF THE "MICHIGAN ALBUM" ON THE STATE'S WEBSITE The State of Michigan would like to display your photographs for the "Michigan Album" on the State's website. All pictures of Michigan places, things, people or experiences, that are appropriate for public viewing, will be considered for publication. The picture can be in either black and white or color, and must be between 640 x 480 and 320 x 240 pixels in size, not to exceed 500 kb and is a 72 dpi, high-quality, JPG or PNG file. By submitting a photo, you are giving permission for the State to use the image on their website. You must be the sole owner of the picture's copyright and provide your name and details of the picture to be included in a caption. To learn more about how you can submit your digital images for display, visit the State of Michigan's website at www.michigan.gov and click on the "Send us your best shot" link in the bottom right corner.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,
please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov